UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT NEW YORK

THIRD CHURCH of CHRIST, SCIENTIST, of :

Plaintiff,

- against -

NEW YORK CITY,

THE CITY OF NEW YORK and PATRICIA J. LANCASTER, in her official capacity as, Commissioner of the New York City Department: of Buildings,

____X

Defendants.

07 Civ. 10962 (DAB)

REPLY DECLARATION OF MONICA PA IN **FURTHER SUPPORT OF MOTION TO COMPEL**

- I, MONICA PA, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, declare are follows:
- 1. I am associated with the firm Davis Wright Tremaine LLP, counsel for Plaintiff Third Church of Christ, Scientist, of New York City (the "Church"). I respectfully submit this Declaration in further support of the Church's motion for an order to compel non-parties the 570 Park Avenue Apartments, Inc., 580 Park Avenue, Inc., Susan Relyea, as a Member of the Co-Op Board of 580 Park Avenue, Inc., and The Beekman Tenants Corporation (the "Neighbors"), to comply with the subpoenas dated March 6, 2008 (the "Subpoena"), and to Oppose the Neighbors' Cross-Motion to Quash.
- 2. Attached as Exhibit A is a letter from the Neighbors' counsel, Phyllis H. Weisberg, Esq., Kurzman Karelsen & Frank, LLP, to Christopher Santulli, PE, Manhattan Borough Commissioner, New York City Department of Buildings, on March 12, 2007.
- 3. Attached as Exhibit B is a letter from Phyllis H. Weisberg, Esq. to Christopher Santulli on March 30, 2007.

- 4. Attached as Exhibit C is an email from Lindsey Allison, District Chief of Staff. Council Member Daniel R. Garodnick, to Keith Powers (powers.keith@gmail.com) and Sarra Hale-Stern (shalestern@gmail.com), dated June 7, 2007, bates stamped [DF]03278.
- 5. Attached as Exhibit D is an email from Sarra Hale-Stern (shalestern@gmail.com) to Lindsey Allison and Keith Powers (powersk@assembly.state.ny.us), dated July 3, 2007, bates stamped [DF]03906-3907.
- 6. Attached as Exhibit E is an email from Howard Rubenstein (hrubenstein@rubenstein.com) to Dan Doctoroff, dated July 31, 2007, bates stamped [DF]0505.
- 7. Attached as Exhibit F is an email from Susan Relyea (susanrelyea@yahoo.com) to Daniel Doctoroff, copied to Phyllis Arnold (senior DOB official), David Karnovsky (General Counsel of the City's Department of Planning), Elizabeth Weinstein (Doctoroff's principal assistant), Peter Price, Phyllis Weisberg, and Jim Grossman, thanking Mr. Doctoroff for meeting with her, dated September 11, 2007, bates stamped [DF]02945-2946.
- 8. The Court issued its discovery order on March 3, 2008. Within a few days, the Church had issued 13 subpoenas to non-parties and propounded interrogatories and document requests to the City.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on May 9, 2008

Moudo Pa

EXHIBIT A

KURZMAN KARELSEN & FRANK, LLP

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ERNEST L. BIAL
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March 12, 2007

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NEW JERSEY DIAL (973) 273-0455 FAX (973) 273-0458

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL & OVERNIGHT MAIL

Christopher Santulli, PE Manhattan Borough Commissioner New York City Department of Buildings 280 Broadway New York, NY 10007

> 583 Park Avenue (the "Premises") Block 1398 – Lot 0001 Job No. 104511495

Dear Commissioner Santulli:

As we have previously advised, this office represents 580 Park Avenue, Incorporated, and 570 Park Avenue Apartments, Inc, the cooperative apartment corporations that own 580 Park Avenue and 570 Park Avenue, respectively. We refer to our letters of January 9, 2007, January 16, 2007 and January 18, 2007, copies of which are enclosed.

We write to formally request the revocation of all permits and approvals related to the above job number including, without limitation, the permit for a change of use.

As we previously advised you, our clients believe that the proposed change in use is in violation of law. Since our prior letters, we have received additional information which we believe makes that even clearer. Specifically, we call to your attention a Confidential Private Placement Memorandum (the "Memorandum") filed with the New York State Attorney General and dated September 29, 2006. This was filed in connection with an offering to potential investors in Rose Group Park Avenue LLC (the "Rose Group"), the commercial caterer leasing the Premises. Relevant extracts from the Memorandum are annexed as Exhibit "A." The Memorandum establishes that the applicant is attempting to use, in an R-10 Park Improvement District and that such use can in no way be considered "accessory."

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In our prior letters we discussed the application for a change of use, the description of the proposed use, and the notation by Commissioner Osorio concerning that use. On March 5, 2007, we became aware, for the first time, of an additional letter and your notation concerning use. That letter was not in the file when we initially examined and reproduced same.

That letter, dated June 6, 2006, a copy of which is annexed as Exhibit "B," represents that the use by the caterer was to be for "limited periods," that the caterer was operating "under contract with the Church," that the functions were "ancillary," and that the "functions will be restricted by contract." On the basis of those representations, you agreed to "accept catered events under contract with the Church as complying with 'accessory Social Hall' requirements of April 10, 2006 determination by L. Osorio."

We submit that the Church's characterization is disingenuous. First, as discussed below and set forth in the contemporaneous liquor license application, the so-called contract with the caterer is actually a thirty (30) year lease (a twenty (20) year term with two (2) five year renewal options) for the premises. The difference between a contract with restrictions and a thirty (30) year lease is staggering. Among other things, a lease is an interest in real estate.

Second, the suggestion that the church building would be utilized by the caterer only "for limited periods" is simply wrong. The Memorandum describes the operation of the Premises. Nowhere is there a mention of restrictions.¹ Nowhere is there mention of use only for limited periods — except for limited Church use. Indeed, there is barely a mention of Church use. Most importantly, page 13 of the Memorandum states that "[t]he Company has entered into a Lease for the Facility Space, which permits the current congregation to use the Facility Space on a limited basis at times when the Company is not using the Facility Space." [Emphasis added] When read in the context of the statement on the same page that the Church only has forty members "and only a few of these members participate in the Church's Wednesday and Sunday services," it is clear that the use by the Church is extremely limited and that the use by the caterer is the primary use.

This is reinforced by the advertisements on the website of LocationsMagazine.com, which refer to the availability of the Premises every night of the week. We enclose as Exhibit "D" copies of the original listing and the modified listing; this modification was posted only after our clients raised the issue concerning the proposed maximum size of events as 2500. The maximum size is now described as 1000.

¹ Notably, the offeror, the Rose Group, is listed on the application for a change of use as the general contractor; we annex as Exhibit "C" the relevant printout from BIS evidencing this.

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Nor has the Church "provided for various catered events" or are the Rose Group's events "ancillary" to events sponsored by the Church as stated in the June 2nd letter. The Memorandum describes the types of events (see page 14). None relate to the Church. Instead, there are a myriad of corporate, individual and charity functions listed. Clearly, it is the Rose Group, the tenant, that will exclusively provide for these catered events. The Church has no role or participation in providing for such events.

We believe that documents submitted to two separate governmental agencies, i.e., the Memorandum filed with the Attorney General, and the June 2nd letter submitted to your Department, both of which presumably have been certified as true, are totally inconsistent. They cannot both be correct. We believe that this inconsistency requires immediate revocation of all permits.

Moreover, the described catering use is no way consistent with your notation on the June 2, 2006 letter. Your note relates to "catered events under contract with the Church." As described in the Memorandum, there will be <u>no</u> catered events under contract with the Church. The catered events are to take place under contracts between the Church's tenant, the Rose Group, and the individual or entity having the event. Unlike the typical arrangement where a religious institution has an in-house caterer, but the contract is with the institution and includes rental of the institution, the Church is not a party to such contract. In fact, as discussed below, the Church has made efforts to disassociate itself from the events because liquor will be served.² For this reason, too, the permits should be revoked.

While we recognize that the inquiry into whether a use is an accessory use is often a fact-intensive inquiry, we believe, that based on the documentary evidence before you, this use cannot under any circumstances be viewed as an accessory use. We enclose copies of two recent BSA decisions involving Yeshiva Imrei Chaim Viznitz (the "Yeshiva case") involving similar issues. In those decisions, the BSA upheld the DOB view that the catering use was not accessory. As those decisions make clear, the DOB and the BSA look at, among other things, intensity and frequency to determine whether the use is an accessory use. Here, the Memorandum makes clear that the primary user of the premises is the caterer.

Moreover the Memorandum makes clear that the attraction of the space is the potential intensity – that it can accommodate over 500 people. Thus, on page 13 it states "[t]he Company believes that the beauty and grandeur of the building located at 583 Park Avenue, New York, New York (the 'Facility Space'), its ability to handle over 500 people, and the prestigious location on Park Avenue represents a unique business opportunity." On page 15, the Rose Group states that "[t]he Facility Space will be one of the few properties in and around its location that can accommodate seated dinners with

² Christian Scientists, we understand, do not partake of alcohol.

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over 500 guests." See also page 3. This is far greater than the intensity of the use in the Yeshiva case. In that case, the use was for approximately 400 guests.

As to frequency, the Rose Group has represented it will hold approximately two to three events per week on average, but acknowledges it could be more. It has acknowledged that it will likely hold events almost every night in December. Given the financial pressures created by the involvement of investors pursuant to the Memorandum, the Rose Group has every incentive to have as many events as possible. The website listing at LocationsMagazine.com makes clear that the Premises is available every night. We understand the Premises has already been booked for a number of events. And, while the use in the Yeshiva case included use for the synagogue, the use here, which involves liquor, weddings and bar mitzvahs, none of which are part of Christian Science, will not be used at all by the members of the Church. In fact, the Church currently has an application pending with the Landmarks Preservation Commission for permission to put a block over the entrance to the building to cover the name of the Church, since presumably it does not want to be associated with events at which alcohol is served.

Indeed, even if the Church used the Premises for events, given that the Memorandum states the membership is now 40, it would certainly be a very small number of events.³ Notably, in the Yeshiva cases, that at least 50% of the events were <u>not</u> related to the Synagogue or School was one of the factors that led to the determination that the use was not accessory.

In the Yeshiva cases, the BSA also noted that the Zoning Resolution "does not anticipate that primary uses can normal qualify as accessory uses." Yet what is planned here is clearly a commercial catering establishment, a primary use under Use Group 9.

Finally, as noted in the Yeshiva cases, the hours of operation are relevant. Here, the catering use will only be when the Church is <u>not</u> using the premises. The uses are mutually exclusive. That in and of itself is one of the clearest indicia that this is not an accessory use.

We believe the foregoing establish that the contemplated use is neither consistent with the representations to you nor an accessory use under Zoning Resolution 12-10. The uses are unrelated and only share a building.

³ In the Yeshiva cases the Board noted that the DOB also looks to the "relationship between the size of the membership of the religious entity and the size of events." Here, with only forty members, it is hard to imagine why or how events of over 500 would be warranted.

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The construction continues to go forward; in fact, we have reason to believe that it is or will soon be substantially complete. Where the evidence is clear – for the Rose Group cannot disclaim its own filing with the Attorney General - there is no point in delaying the revocation of permits.

For all the foregoing reasons, we respectfully request that any permits and approvals issued to date be immediately revoked.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

KURZMAN KARELSEN & FRANK, LLP

Phyllis H. Weisberg

PHW:alj Encls.

cc: Mona Seghal, Esq. (via overnight mail)

Benjamin Colombo, Manhattan IGA Liaison, Executive Assistant to Borough Commissioner (via overnight mail)

David G. Liston, Chair, Community Board 8 (via overnight mail)

Terry Slater, Co-Chair, Zoning and Development Committee, Community Board 8 (via overnight mail)

Elaine Walsh, Co-Chair, Zoning and Development Committee, Community Board 8 (via overnight mail)

Hon. Liz Krueger (via overnight mail)

Hon. Jonathan Bing (via overnight mail)

Hon. Scott Stringer (via overnight mail)

Hon. Dan Garodnick (via overnight mail)

Board of Directors, 580 Park Avenue, Incorporated (via electronic mail)

Board of Directors, 570 Park Avenue Apartments, Inc. (via electronic mail)

EXHIBIT B

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BORO COMM OFFICE

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LAW OFFICES KURZMAN KARELSEN & FRANK, LLP

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05/03/2007 14:54

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March 30, 2007

COLINGEL STANLEY E. MARGOLIES RICHARD E, MILLER JOSEPH F. SEMINARA HON: LOUIS C. PALELLA (JUSTICE, MYS RUPPIPME COURT, RET.) DAVID YAVARKOVSKY EUGENE HABER

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NEW JERSEY DIAL (973) 273-0466 FAX (973) 273-0458

BY HAND & VIA OVERNIGHT MAIL

Christopher Santulli, PE Manhattan Borough Commissioner New York City Department of Buildings 280 Broadway New York, NY 10007

> 583 Park Avenue (the "Premises") Block 1398 - Lot 0001 Job No. 104511495

Dear Commissioner Santulli:

On behalf of our clients, 580 Park Avenue, Incorporated and 570 Park Avenue Apartments, Inc, we write to address issues that you raised at the meeting with Joanne Seminara and me on March 21, 2007. We also write to provide you with additional information, including a copy of the lease between The Third Church of Christ, Scientist (the "Church") and the Rose Group and our analysis thereof. A copy of the lease is annexed as Exhibit A.

This letter will address the following issues: 1) the significance of the leasing arrangement and the specifics of the lease; 2) the authority of the Department of Buildings ("DOB") to revoke a permit prior to the commencement of use; and 3) the implications of the Church's status as a religious institution.

At issue here is whether this catering operation is a proper accessory use for the Church. As discussed in our March 12th letter and below, we believe it is clear that the catering use will now be the primary, and not the accessory or incidental, use. Simply put, what is proposed is a commercial catering establishment in a building owned by a church. The relationship is merely that of landlord and tenant. No interrelationship or integration exists between the church use and the catering use, as is required for an accessory use.

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The Leasing Arrangement Cedes Control of the Property and the Catering Operation

At our meeting you raised an issue concerning the difference between a lease and a typical catering arrangement. A lease confers a possessory right. It transfers absolute possession and control of the premises to the tenant. In law, this is often referred to as a right of "exclusive possession" which, in lay terms, is the right to "exclude" others from using the property.

In the usual catering arrangement, the relationship revolves around the service to be provided and the quality of that service. Here the relationship revolves around a piece of real estate and a convenient "cover" for the tenant's use as a commercial catering establishment.

That this is a lease effectively for thirty years (twenty years plus two five year renewal terms) is critical to this issue. Unlike the typical arrangement with a caterer, either as a "house" or exclusive caterer, a long term lease – and in particular this long term lease – involves ceding control over both the building and the tenant's operation.

Granting a possessory interest for a period of thirty years is functionally equivalent to a sale of the building. New York's Religious Corporations Law §12 requires a religious institution that is selling, mortgaging or leasing for a period in excess of <u>five</u> years to obtain prior court approval. This is a recognition by the New York State legislature that a lease is in many ways equivalent to a sale. As discussed below, this is particularly true here.

In contrast to the lease arrangement here, the typical religious institution that permits catering has a house or exclusive caterer; that caterer has no possessory rights, but is merely permitted entry on the property for the purpose of providing a service. The arrangement with a house caterer is usually terminable at will or lasts only for a limited period of time. In the event of a dispute, the religious institution can refuse to renew the caterer's contract or bar the caterer from entering the premises.

In the case of a lease, however, because of the possessory interest in real (estate, self-help is generally not permitted and the institution's only recourse would be to institute dispossess proceedings. Such proceedings, although dubbed "summary," i.e., expedited, proceedings, often take several years to resolve. In the interim, the caterer would continue to have access to and a right to occupy and use the premises.

An example of what could happen is discussed in a decision involving the Lombardy Hotel, 109 East 56th Street v. 111 East 56th Street, Supreme Court, New York

¹ The Church sought and obtained such approval in an uncontested submission to the Supreme Court, New York County. The standard for approval of such application is essentially whether fair consideration is involved for the transfer so as to protect the congregants.

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County, a copy of which decision is annexed as Exhibit B. The legal proceedings were instituted by service of a notice to cure in June, 2002. Because of motion practice and the tenant's filing two bankruptcy cases, the matter was not finally determined until January, 2006, some three and one half years later. And even then, the tenant was given a further period to cure, and absent such cure, only then could the actual dispossess proceeding be instituted. While the action was pending, the tenant continued in occupancy and continued to operate in a manner ultimately determined to violate the lease. In other words, the ability to control the tenant's conduct was seriously limited.

In the context of a claimed accessory use, such a result is untenable. Yet the possibility of such result demonstrates the significance of a lease creating a possessory interest, let alone one for thirty years.

The lease between the Church and the Rose Group underscores, among other things, the loss of control. For your information, we have only recently obtained a copy of the lease. In our settlement discussions with the Church and the Rose Group, we had requested a copy of the lease. While the Church and the Rose Group were reluctant to provide same, they did agree that excerpts from the lease would be made available to us, provided it appeared we were moving close to a settlement. Since our talks broke down, they did not provide us with any of the promised excerpts. We have, however, located a copy of the lease as public record (filed with the application pursuant to the Religious Corporations Law).

This lease highlights the difference between this arrangement and the typical arrangement with a caterer in a religious institution. Notwithstanding the references to accessory use, the lease makes the Rose Group's use primary. The lease demonstrates the lack of any integration between the Church's operations and the Rose Group.

The lease is what is typically referred to as a "triple" net lease, where the landlord hands the key to the tenant and charges the tenant with the responsibility for maintaining the property in its entirety. Although in this lease the Church has retained a right to use a portion of the premises, that right is limited. As more fully discussed below, the Church has virtually no obligations to provide services or to maintain or repair the premises. It cannot hire building staff without the Rose Group's consent. Its ability to sell the building is limited by the Rose Group and the Church may be required to pay the entire net proceeds of a sale to the Rose Group. And, conspicuously absent from the lease are lease, one gets the distinct impression that, but for the economic terms (which we submit respects the owner and the Church the tenant.

² Had the tenant chosen to appeal, the matter could have gone on much longer.

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Some of the more relevant portions of the lease are as follows:

1) The Premises

. By its definition of the premises, the lease gives the Rose Group a possessory right not only in the entire building, but also in the land (Paragraph 1.1, p.2). The control of the Interior and the exterior of the property is underscored by such provisions as that contained in Paragraph 9.1, p. 33 in which the Church is given the right to maintain a literature distribution box on the 63rd Street side of the Building" at a location "to be mutually agreed upon by the parties,...." [emphasis added] In other words, the Church cannot even unilaterally determine where to place a box on its exterior at a side entrance to its own building. This is one Indicia of the Church's having ceded control over its own premises.

While, notwithstanding the grant to the Tenant of the right to occupy the entire building, limited portions are reserved for the Church, those are, at least in part, to be physically separated from the Tenant's space. Thus, on the 4th floor, where, based on the plans submitted to DOB, it appears the Church will maintain what little space it is reserving for itself, the Tenant is required to "install a door separating such 4th floor TENANT space from the Church space...and the 4th floor Church space shall be designated by a sign specifying "Private Offices." Paragraph 9.1, p. 32. This partitioning, among other things, demonstrates the lack of integration between the Church and the catering operation.

2) The Right of First Refusal and Restrictions Upon Sale

Article 36, p. 71 contains provisions that, perhaps more than any other, highlight that this is anything but a use accessory to the Church. This article grants the Rose Group a right of first refusal in the event of a proposed sale of the building. This confirms that this lease is exclusively a real estate agreement.

Article 36 also restricts a sale of the premises by the Church in the first five years of the lease if the sale is to a "Non-Qualified User," i.e., an entity not a religious institution. Rather than the Church controlling its own property and its operations, the Rose Group, through the lease, is in control. After five years, the Church may sell to a Non-Qualified User, but if such sale occurs, and if the Tenant does not chose to exercise its right of first refusal, then, unless the Rose Group has obtained a special use permit to allow the use of the building as a catering facility (Paragraph 36.2, p. 74 allows either the Church or the Rose Group to apply for a special use permit after the first five years of the term of the lease), the Tenant is to be paid the lesser of the net proceeds received from the sale or the value of both a) its business as a going concern and b) the costs of repairs and improvements to the building. In other words, unless the Rose Group can obtain a special use permit for a commercial catering establishment, it is entitled to the entire net proceeds

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of any sale or the value of its business and improvements to the premises. If it is entitled to the proceeds of any sale, its interest is, in fact, a de facto ownership interest.

3) The Responsibility for Repairs and Maintenance

As is typical in a net lease situation, the Tenant is responsible for all repairs. See, e.g., Paragraphs 5.5 and 5.6 at p. 24, Paragraph 5.8 at p. 25.. Tenant is also required to maintain the sidewalks and shovel ice and snow (Article 33, p. 65), an obligation consistent with its being the primary user of the premises.

In addition, under Article 37, p. 75, the cost of structural repairs shall be borne by landlord and tenant according to a formula set forth in Paragraph 37.1.B. That formula is based on the useful life of the repairs and the term remaining on the lease. Given the length of the lease, it effectively means that most if not all expenses for structural repairs, at least at the outset, will be the Rose Group's responsibility.

Paragraph 5.9 at p. 25 makes clear that the Church has no obligation to furnish any services for the Premises, including heat, water, light and electric power. Pursuant to Paragraph 4.1, p. 20, the Rose Group is to contract directly for "all...utilities used and consumed in the Premises." See also Paragraph 5.11 at p. 26.

Under Paragraph 3.4, p. 6, Tenant is also responsible for all real estate taxes and has the authority to contest assessed valuation (the lease anticipates that the tenant's use will eliminate the exemption from real estate taxes).

These provisions again make clear that the primary use is that of the Rose Group, and because of that primary use, it has assumed these responsibilities with respect to the realty.

Even clearer evidence of the Rose Group's responsibility and control is found in Paragraph 5.13, p. 26. This provision contains a limitation upon hiring custodians <u>without the Rose Group's prior consent</u>. It states as follows:

[t]he hiring and retention by Landlord of any and all employees in the capacities of custodian and/or Building maintenance, including the terms and conditions employment, shall be subject to the prior written approval and consent of Tenant (each, an "Employee"), which may be given or withheld at Tenant's sole discretion. Tenant shall reimburse Landlord within thirty (30) days of written demand therefor, in an amount equal to any such Employee's compensation, including FICA and similar costs, provided Tenant shall have theretofore approved such amounts in writing....[t]he custodians ...shall be subject to the direction and supervision of TENANT, except when the Building is being used

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exclusively for Church Activities, during which period the custodians with respect to Church activities only shall be subject to the direction of the Church. [emphasis added].

The unequivocal import of this provision is that the Rose Group is operating the real estate and effectively has total control. The Church cannot even hire employees without the Rose Group's consent.

The Rose Group is also given permission to remove the pews, Paragraph 5.3A, p. 20 and Exhibit C to the lease, but, contrary to the public statements of the Church that such pews are not needed or even wanted, the Rose Group is required to restore the pews or provide new ones at the conclusion of the lease, thereby demonstrating their importance if the building is to be used primarily as a church.

Paragraph 6.4, p. 28, acknowledges the possibility of alterations "not customarily found in a church type facility" and provides that the Church may require the removal of such items at the end of the lease term, which means that elements not customarily found in a religious facility may be there for up to thirty years.

4) Church Activities

While the lease attempts to delineate the Church's activities, it makes clear how limited those activities are. Thus, Article 35, p. 66, sets forth the use of the premises by the Church. Article 9, p. 32 sets forth the limited areas of the building which the Church may use for its activities.³ The permitted use includes the use for the conduct of church services (which occur Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings).

As to the areas that the Church may use, notably, only with respect to services (Paragraphs 35.1A, B, and C, p. 67) and church corporate or organization meetings (Paragraph 35.1F, p. 68) does the lease specifically state that such use will require the use of the "entrance to the Premises." Presumably then, all other uses (except for Association meetings, held four days each year, for which the Church reserves the entire building) will require the Church to use the small side entrance toward the rear of the building on 63rd Street. The Church's use is so limited that it has only limited use of its own front doors.

In enumerating its uses, the Church reserves dates for Association meetings, and provides that "LANDLORD agrees to give TENANT not less than (1) year's prior written notice of any such change in the date of an Association Meeting and will use reasonable efforts to accommodate TENANT's use of the Premises on those days." (Paragraph 35.D. p. 67). [emphasis added]. Similarly, the Church classes that are held over the summer for

³ While this Article refers to use of Sunday School in the basement, it appears, based on plans submitted to the DOB, that the Sunday School will be sited in the back portion of the 4th floor to be used by the Church.

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two, two-week sessions require notification "at least one(1) year in advance of the actual date" even though such classes require only that the Rose Group temporarily relocate its office on the 4th floor. (Paragraph 35.1E, p. 67). [emphasis added]. Again, the unmistakable conclusion is that the Tenant's use is the primary use, and the Church's use is incidental.

While Paragraph 35.1 contains an enumeration of Church uses with great specificity as to dates, Paragraph 35.1G, p. 68 allows for

occasional non-regularly scheduled events...[to be] scheduled from time to time at times mutually agreed upon by LANDLORD and TENANT. Since it is difficult or impossible to predict when such a meeting may be required, LANDLORD and TENANT agree to consult with each other in order to schedule such meetings (i) in a manner which causes no disruption to TENANT's scheduled events in the Premises and (ii)at such times as do not conflict with TENANT's reasonably anticipated use of the Premises.

While such terms would seem commercially reasonable from a commercial caterer's perspective, they lead to the inescapable conclusion that it is the Tenant's use that is driving the scheduling. Again, it is the Tenant's use that is primary.

Although, as noted, this Article reserves certain areas of the building for the Church's use, the Church's use of those areas is not necessarily exclusive. Thus, Article 29, p. 62 provides that the Tenant shall be permitted use of the Board Room, previously reserved by the Church, on a "when Available" basis.

5) Tenant's Activities

While the Church's reservation of a right to use portions of the premises is delineated in detail, the Rose Group's right to use the premises is clearly much broader. Paragraph 22.1, p. 56 provides that "TENANT shall use and occupy the Premises solely as a high end, first class catering facility and for banquets, special events and meetings,...." Paragraph 16.1, p. 49 provides that the Tenant is granted the right of quiet enjoyment subject, only to the "LANDLORD'S right to occupy and utilize those portions of the Premises for Church purposes as set forth herein." Thus, the Tenant has the right to the whole, subject only to the express reservations by the Church.

Tenant has a right to sublet in whole or in part, subject, however, to the consent of the Church. Paragraph 22.2, p. 56. Again, this right underscores the possessory nature of

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the interest and its prime focus on real estate, not the performing of a function related, even loosely, to the Church.⁴

In addition, Tenant is given control over the facade. As you may know, an application—is currently pending before the Landmarks Preservation Commission concerning covering up the Church's name on the facade. Paragraph. 27.1, p. 61 of the lease provides that "TENANT shall also remove or cover, at TENANT's option, the existing signs on the building facade and replace or cover them with blank ("faux") windows." Tenant is also obligated to install signs which "will indicate the existence of LANDLORD'S Sunday School and Church at all times except when TENANT is using the Premises for a third-party function or marketing the Premises." The attempt to separate and distinguish the uses further demonstrates the lack of integration.

While admittedly some of the provisions of the lease are consistent with a more traditional arrangement, (for example the Tenant must respect the Church's privacy and not enter any portion of the premises during hours of Church activity, Paragraph 35.5, p. 70, what is clear from the totality of this lease is that the occupancy by the Rose Group is primary, with the Church retaining limited secondary use.

We annex, as Exhibit C, a copy of a resolution adopted by the Church concerning the approval of the lease. The resolution states that the Church has 64 members; at the meeting, however, only 32 attended, and only a bare majority of those approved the lease. The limited number of members, and the extensive activities proposed by the Church, underscore the primary use of the building will be as an event space and commercial catering establishment.

Under the Facts Here the Department of Buildings May Revoke the Change of Use Permit Prior to Commencement of Use

At our meeting, you raised the issue of enforcement and whether the DOB is authorized to revoke a permit prior to commencement of the use in question. We believe the answer is yes.

Our conclusions as to the use are not speculative. Rather, they are based on documentary evidence – documents generated by the Church and the Rose Group themselves. These documents, the lease and the Confidential Private Placement

⁴ This provision also has implications for your notation on the June 2, 2006 letter from the Church. The subtenant, who may be holding catered events, clearly would have no direct relationship with the Church, thereby violating the requirement that the events be "under contract with the Church." Such would violate the conditions under which DOB issued its permit. That the parties entered into a lease with such a provision, and allowing such a possibility, without disclosing it to DOB, raises a serious issue.

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Memorandum (the "Memorandum"), referred to in our March 12, 2007 letter, undermine the application made to DOB to obtain the permit for a change of use. Moreover, they contain clear statements as to what the use will be and, in particular, that the Rose Group's use will be primary.

As noted above, the lease demonstrates that the Rose Group's use is primary and unrelated to the Church. The Memorandum confirms that. It states that the Rose Group "has entered into a Lease for the Facility Space [583 Park Avenue], which permits the current congregation [described as forty members] to use the Facility Space on a limited basis at times when the Company is not using the Facility Space." [Emphasis added] How clearer could it be that the catering use will be primary and the Church use will be secondary. The quoted language is in significant ways diametrically opposed to the submissions to the DOB upon which a change of use permit was granted. The submissions and the Memorandum cannot both be correct.

The "frequency" and "intensity" of the purported accessory use were referred to as highly relevant in the Board of Standards and Appeals decisions involving Yeshiva Imrei Chaim Viznitz (the "Yeshiva case"), which we discussed in our March 12, 2007 letter. As to those factors, too, the documentary evidence is clear. The Memorandum makes clear that the intent is to hold large events (the over 500 person capacity of 583 Park Avenue is cited as one of its distinguishing features). As set forth in the March 13, 2007 letter by the elected officials to Commissioner Lancaster, a copy of which is annexed as Exhibit D, the Church and the Rose Group have represented they would hold up to 208 events per year. While they have apparently in later discussions offered to reduce that number of events to 169, they have also stated that events under 100 should be unlimited in number.

The submissions to the DOB do not establish the necessary interrelationship between the Church and the Rose Group or the integration of their activities. The lease between the Church and the Rose Group makes clear that no other connection exists aside from their interests in the same piece of real estate. The uses are mutually exclusive uses and unconnected. The Memorandum makes clear the Rose Group's use will be the primary use.

Accordingly, examining the application and the additional documentary evidence, it is clear that the Church has failed to make the requisite showing to entitle it to the change of use permit.

⁵ This document was filed with a certification as to its accuracy. As an offering of securities, under the securities laws it subjects an issuer to claims if any statements are untrue.

⁶ Given the size of the congregation, somewhere between 40, as set forth in the Memorandum and 64, as set forth in Exhibit C, serious question exists whether a lesser number could even meet the requirement of the Yeshiva case that the frequency and intensity bear some reasonable relationship to the size of the congregation.

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Given the foregoing, under the authority of 9th & 10th Street LLC v. Board of Standards and Appeals of the City of New York, 12 Misc.3d 1183(A), decided in July, 2006, it is clear that the Department would be acting properly in revoking the permit at this time. We annex for your convenience a copy of that decision as Exhibit E. In the 9th & 10th Street case, a permit was denied for a dormitory use prior to the time the use commenced because the applicant failed to meet the criteria for a college or school dormitory (this was prior to the enactment of Rule 51-01). Both the court and the Board of Standards and Appeals upheld DOB's determination.

As in that case, the issue presented here is not whether the building might be used in a non-conforming manner, but whether the applicant made the requisite showing for the claimed future use. While the Church's application on its face would arguably appear to make the requisite showing, the documentary evidence contradicts that. Had the lease and the Memorandum, or the provisions thereof, been disclosed on the application, we believe DOB would have denied the application. After review of the documentary evidence, the application fails to meet the threshold to establish the Church's right to a permit based on accessory use.

Earlier cases that stated that the DOB should not speculate about future use, are inapposite here. Here there is no speculation. In the Memorandum, a private offering filed under certification of truth with the New York State Attorney General's office, the true use of the premises was disclosed. To argue otherwise would expose the Rose Group to securities fraud claims. The lease also makes clear how the premises will be used. At issue is not possible future use, but actual intended use.

While revoking a permit in advance of commencement of use may be unusual, it is not impermissible. As the court noted in the 9th & 10th Street case, in response to the claim that what DOB had done was unprecedented, an "agency may engage in 'ad hoc decision making based on individual facts and circumstances.'....Ad hoc decision making may lead to 'unprecedented' decisions if the facts and circumstances are unique." Here the facts and circumstances are unique. The future use is admitted. Speculation is unnecessary.

As the court also noted in that case, "[e]ven proposed 'as-of-right' projects, when exposed to public scrutiny, may turn out to be not legitimately 'as-of-right." That scrutiny here has yielded documentary evidence. That evidence establishes this is not an accessory use and is, therefore, not "as-of-right." Therefore, even in advance of the commencement of the use, the permit can and should be revoked.

⁷ As noted above, however, we do not believe it made the requisite showing of integration or interrelationship between the Church's use and the Rose Group's use. We are, therefore, not conceding the sufficiency of the application on its face.

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Furthermore, we note that the condition you wrote on the June 2, 2006 letter required "events under contract with the Church." Taken literally, anyone having an event at the Church would have to contract directly with the Church and the Church would have a house caterer under its control. The parties have acknowledged that will not be the case. As discussed above, the Church does not have the Rose Group effectively under its control. By entering into the arrangement with the Rose Group in the manner it has, the Church has acknowledged that the use will not comply with the condition set by you as a basis for granting the permit. On this ground, too, the permit may be revoked.

The Church's Status As a Religious Institution Is Not Relevant to the Determination

You had raised some concerns about limitations regarding operations of religious institutions. We believe you were referring to the recent decision involving St. Brigid's (Committee to Save St. Brigid v. Edward Cardinal Egan, Sup. Ct. N.Y. Co. (NYLJ 2/16/06). We annex a copy of that decision as Exhibit F. In that case, both the decision of the Archdiocese to close a parish and the decision to demolish the church were challenged. The Court refused to intervene, noting that it would not interfere with ecclesiastical decisions. In the St. Brigid case, the court noted that judicial involvement in disputes involving church property would be appropriate in cases which "can be decided solely upon the application of neutral principles of contract law...and where the underlying controversy does not involve determining religious doctrines or ecclesiastical issues." The court refused to interfere with the archdiocese's decision to demolish one of its churches on the grounds that "it would be an 'impermissible intrusion' into Cardinal Egan's ecclesiastical authority to mandate" that he reopen the derelict facility and/or operate a parish there.

The situation at 583 Park Avenue is clearly distinguishable from that of St. Brigid where the church's authority to select a place of worship was called into question. The decision to permit the operation of a commercial catering facility does not involve the determination of religious doctrine nor does it present an ecclesiastical issue. Were DOB to revoke the permit, its decision would neither prevent nor compel the members of the Church from using the church facility to exercise their religion. Indeed, the Church has presumably carried out its religious mandate for decades without benefit of a formal catering "arrangement."

Most importantly, St. Brigid did not involve an attempt to circumvent the Zoning Resolution to establish an otherwise illegal use in a residential district. To argue that St. Brigid prohibits DOB from enforcing the law would mean that any religious institution could with impunity violate laws as it chooses. Obviously, that is not the state of the law. Therefore, we believe that such decision in no way limits the DOB's ability to act in this matter.

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For all the foregoing reasons, we respectfully request that any permits and approvals issued to date be immediately revoked.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

KURZMAN KARELSEN & FRANK, LLP

Phyllis H. Weisberg

PHW:alj Encls.

Mona Seghal, Esq. (by-hand delivery w/encls.) CC:

Benjamin Colombo, Manhattan IGA Liaison, Executive Assistant to Borough

Commissioner (via overnight mail w/encls.)

David G. Liston, Chair, Community Board 8 (via overnight mail w/encls.)

Hon. Liz Krueger (via overnight mail w/encls.)

Hon. Jonathan Bing (via overnight mail w/encls.)

Hon. Scott Stringer (via overnight mail w/encls.)

Hon. Dan Garodnick (via overnight mail w/encls.)

Board of Directors, 580 Park Avenue, Incorporated (via electronic mail)

Board of Directors, 570 Park Avenue Apartments, Inc. (via electronic mail)



Lindsey Allison Lindsey Allison Illison Right

583 Park Ave

8 messages

מאנו אושם כמכ - זומוו

Lindsey Allison Lindsey Allison <a href="mailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@gmailto:Allison9@

Thu, Jun 7, 2007 at 1:47 PM

To: Keith <powers.keith@gmail.com>, Sarra Hale-Stern <shalestern@gmail.com>

Have Joanne and Phyllis been calling you guys about this too? It seems I get a phone call daily from them saying they don't understand how the Rose Group is having events and that the neighbors are really upset.

Wonder if they're upset because they are having events despite their efforts to stop them or if the events are actually out of control. My guess would be the former.....I haven't received any noise complaints yet.

LA

Lindsey Allison

8 District Chief of Staff
Council Member Daniel R. Garodnick
Lind (2) 2) 818-0580

f. (212) 818-0706 www.garodnick.com

Sarra Hale-Stern <shalestern@gmail.com>

Thu, Jun 7, 2007 at 1:53 PM

To: Lindsey Allison lallison9@gmail.com Cc: Keith powers.keith@gmail.com

I haven't been getting any calls just lots and lots of letters from Joanne and Phyllis. I left a message for Ben Colombo earlier today asking if there are any updates but I haven't heard back yet. No noise complaints from residents.

-Sarra

Culoted text hidden]

Keith Powers <powers.keith@gmail.com>

Thu, Jun 7, 2007 at 2:02 PM

To: Sarra Hale-Stern <shalestern@gmail.com>

Cc: Lindsey Allison Lindsey Allison <a href="mai

I haven't been getting phone calls but I have been receiving a daily letter from Phyllis. Is there anything we want to do at this point?

[Quoted text hidden]

13500 2

Lindsey Allison Lindsey Allison < lallison9@gmail.com>

Thu, Jun 7, 2007 at 2:16 PM

Lof3

4/10/2008 10:18 AM

EXHIBIT D

Gmail - Ewd: 583-Park Avenue, The Third Church of Christ Scientist

http://mail.google.com/mail/?ui=2&ik=c1cf5892c7&view=pt&q=5...

To: Sarra Hale-Stern <shalestern@gmail.com> Cc: Keith Powers <powersk@assembly.state.ny.us>

That sounds about right. I think that's totally appropriate. Tell Liz thank you for DG!

LA

[Quoted text hidden]

Sarra Hale-Stern <shalestern@gmail.com>

To: Lindsey Allison lallison9@gmail.com

Cc: Keith Powers <powersk@assembly.state.ny.us>

Hi Keith and Lindsey,

Tue, Jul 3, 2007 at 1:19 PM

NOT RESPONSIYS

Here is a quick overview of Santulli's statements:

- ---He is a very busy person and can't give a definitive date when the final decision will be made. He implied that it should be made by the end of next week.
- ---Nothing the church is doing is dangerous or illegal. The church has permits for all of the construction projects it is undertaking. The DOB has already given the church permission to hold events as an accessory use. A complaint has been made regarding accessory use and they are in the final stages of investigating the complaint.
- --- The church, if it chose to, could withdraw its application to change its CofO, withdraw its application to the AG's office, and apply for temporary place of assembly permits indefinitely. He claimed there are event spaces all across the city that operate in this manner on a long-term basis.
- --- Churches and synagogues all around the city hold catered events on a regular basis. When Liz emphasized that they primarily hold occasional events for members of their congregations and do not enter into 20 year contracts that they file with the AG's office, Santulli said that a permanent contract with a caterer could be a good thing because it could bring stability and consistency to an institution's relations with the surrounding community.
- ---Liz mentioned that the electeds have already received complaints from residents about receive events held at the church. Santull said he was not aware of many problems. Santulli claimed he never received a copy of the letter the electeds sent to the Rose Group recently; I will fax him another copy in a few minutes.

Liz emphasised how many calls all of our offices have received from constituents and their attorneys, and that we have been promised a decision from DOB for months. At the end of the conversation, Liz turned to me and said "that was fun but we're going to lose." I called Joanne and told her that while anything is possible things don't look good right now with DOB.

I think it still makes sense to have Jonathan follow-up with Patricia Lancaster when he gets back from vacation. I think that's it for now. I wish I had better news!

-Sarra

[Quoted text hidden]

Lindsey Allison lallison9@gmail.com

Tue, Jul 3, 2007 at 1:51 PM

en analy

Omail - Fwd: 583 Park Avenue, The Third Church of Christ Scientist

http://mail.google.com/mail/?ui=2&ik=c1cf5892c7& view=pt&q=5...

To: Dan Garodnick <drgarodnick@gmail.com>

FYI: [Quoted text hidden]

Lindsey Allison Lindsey lindsey lind

Tue, Jul 3, 2007 at 1:52 PM

To: Sarra Hale-Stern <shalestern@gmail.com>
Cc: Keith Powers <powersk@assembly.state.ny.us>

I just forwarded to DG and will see what he says.

Wow...

[Quoted text hidden]

NOT RESPONSIVE

(3/18/2008) EDITH HSU-CHEN - FW:

Page 1

From:

"Howbert, Jed" <JHowbert@cityhall.nyc.gov>

To:

<ehsuch@planning.nyc.gov>

Date:

7/31/2007 10:24 AM

Subject:

FW:

Looks like this is coming up again. Can you remind me of what the planning issues are here, and what the current status is?

Jed Howbert Senior Policy Advisor Office of the Deputy Mayor for Economic Development and Rebuilding City Hall New York, NY 10007 212-788-8492

From: Doctoroff, Dan

Sent: Tue 7/31/2007 10:15 AM

To: Howbert, Jed; Weinstein, Elizabeth

Cc: Pardee, Marla Subject: Fw:

I guess we are going to have to look at this. Let's meet.

---- Original Message -----

From: Howard Rubenstein hrubenstein@rubenstein.com

To: Doctoroff, Dan

Sent: Tue Jul 31 09:58:37 2007

Subject:

Dear Dan,

I am e-mailing you on behalf of the Preservation Coalition of the Avenue Association.

The Preservation Coalition, headed by Peter Price, represents area residents who are quite concerned about the use of the basement room of the Third Church of Christ Scientist, 583 Park Avenue at the comer of 63rd St, by the Rose Group as a catering hall for very large social functions. Ads for the space say it will accomodate 800 to 1000 persons for dinner or cocktail receptions, and be available for use seven days a week. You can see one ad by clicking on http://www.locationsmagazine.com/display.php?id=7951.

Such use of this space by Rose raises some serious landmark and zoning issues, as well as community concerns about traffic congestion, noise and inappropriate activity in a residential neighborhood.

Peter and I would like to meet with you as soon as possible to discuss this matter.

Sincerely,

Howard

EXHIBIT F



Office of Council Member Daniel R. Garodnick <garodnickoffice@gmail.com>

FW: Thank you

1 message

Susan Relyea <susanrelyea@yahoo.com>

Tue, Sep 11, 2007 at 10:34 AM

To: Wendy Breck <wbreck@earthlink.net>, Susan Relyea <susanrelyea@yahoo.com>, Stuart Hirshfield <stuart.hirshfield@ropesgray.com>, Stephen McPherson <steve@tetoninc.com>, Robert Stone <rstone@wmllp.com>, Peter Price <pprice@emmyonline.tv>, Norton Belknap <nbelknap@aol.com>, Michael Crames emcrames episolomon.com>, Luisa Pagel <Llv555@aol.com>, Louise Arias <RRmarias@aol.com>, Kevin Morrissey <kpmorrissey@verizon.net>, John Pyne <john.s.pyne@smithbarney.com>, Jamie Grau <jamiegrau@netscape.net>, George Davis <gd@jflpartners.com>, Anita Wien <avwien@g7group.com>, Adele Hogan <ahoganone@aol.com> Cc: Dan Garodnick @council.nyc.ny.us>, Lindsey Allison lallison9@gmail.com, Liz Krueger <pweisberg@kurzman.com>, Joanne Seminara <jseminaralehu@kurzman.com>, Elizabeth Graham <egraham@bhsusa.com>, Janice Negrin <jnegrin@bhsusa.com>, Tom Hinckley <TomH@tudorrealty.com>

FYI – see you in the morning.

----Original Message----

From: Susan Relyea [mailto:susanrelyea@yahoo.com]

Sent: Tuesday, September 11, 2007 11:25 AM

To: Daniel Doctoroff

Cc: Phyllis Arnold; David Karnovsky; Elizabeth Weinstein; Peter Price; Phyllis Weisberg; Jim Grossman

Subject: Thank you

Dear Deputy Mayor Doctoroff.

I enjoyed meeting you yesterday and send many thanks to you, Phyllis, David and Liz for taking the time to hear our concerns about the ongoing attempt to convert the Church at 583 Park into a commercial catering business in our residential neighborhood.

Peter, Phyllis Weisberg, Jim and I all appreciate your collective intelligence and grasp of the situation, as well as your focus on the core legal issue. We know now that facts are being separated from fiction, and we are genuinely hopeful that the law will prevail.

Phyllis W is sending Liz updated information that she requested, with copies to all of you. If at any time I can be helpful in answering questions that may arise, please do not hesitate to contact me at